tronic device **20**. Messages that have been sent or received by the user may be stored in the memory **30** of the portable electronic device **20** or some other suitable storage element in the portable electronic device **20**. Some or all of the sent and received messages may be stored remotely from the portable electronic device **20** such as in a data store of an associated host system with which the portable electronic device **20** may communicate.

[0026] The software applications may include a device state module **62**, a Personal Information Manager (PIM) **64**, and/or other programs or applications. The device state module **62** provides persistence, i.e., the device state module **62** ensures that important device data is stored in persistent memory, such as the memory **30**, to prevent data loss when the portable electronic device **20** is turned off or loses power.

[0027] The PIM **64** includes functionality for organizing and managing data items of interest to the user, such as, but not limited to, e-mail, contacts, calendar events, voice mails, appointments, and task items. A PIM application has the ability to send and receive data items via the wireless network **100**. PIM data items may be seamlessly integrated, synchronized, and updated via the wireless network **100** with the subscriber's corresponding data items stored and/or associated with a host computer system. This functionality creates a mirrored host computer on the portable electronic device **20** with respect to such items, which may be particularly advantageous when the host computer system is the portable electronic device subscriber's office computer system.

[0028] The portable electronic device **20** also includes a connect module **66**, and an information technology (IT) policy module **68**. The connect module **66** implements the communication protocols that are required for the portable electronic device **20** to communicate with the wireless infrastructure and any host system, such as an enterprise system, with which the portable electronic device **20** is authorized to interface.

[0029] The connect module **66** includes a set of application programming interfaces (APIs) that may be integrated with the portable electronic device **20** to facilitate any number of services associated with the enterprise system to be utilized by the portable electronic device **20**. The connect module **66** establishes an end-to-end secure, authenticated communication pipe with the host system. A subset of applications for which access is provided by the connect module **66** may be utilized to pass IT policy commands from the host system to the portable electronic device **20**, which may be performed in a wireless or wired manner. These instructions may be passed to the IT policy module **68** to modify the configuration of the portable electronic device **20**. Alternatively, the IT policy update may also be performed over a wired connection.

[0030] Other types of software applications may also be installed on the portable electronic device **20**. These software applications may be third party applications, which are added after the manufacture of the portable electronic device **20**. Examples of third party applications include media players, global position system applications, games, calculators, utilities, and so forth.

[0031] The additional applications may be loaded onto the portable electronic device **20** through the wireless network **100**, the auxiliary I/O subsystem **36**, the data port **38**, the short-range communications subsystem **44**, and/or any other suitable device subsystem **46**. This flexibility in application installation increases the functionality of the portable electronic device **20** and may provide enhanced on-device functions, communication-related functions, or both. For example, secure communication applications may enable electronic commerce functions and other such financial transactions to be performed using the portable electronic device **20**.

[0032] The data port **38** enables a subscriber to set preferences through an external device or software application and extends the capabilities of the portable electronic device **20** by providing for information or software downloads to the portable electronic device **20** other than through a wireless communication network. The alternate download path may, for example, be utilized to load an encryption key onto the portable electronic device **20** through a direct and thus reliable and trusted connection to provide secure device communication.

[0033] The data port **38** may be any suitable port that enables data communication between the portable electronic device **20** and another computing device. The data port **38** may be a serial or a parallel port. In some instances, the data port **38** may be a USB port that includes data lines for data transfer and a supply line that may provide a charging current to charge the battery **54** of the portable electronic device **20**.

[0034] The short-range communications subsystem **44** provides for communication between the portable electronic device **20** and different systems or devices, without the use of the wireless network **100**. For example, the short-range communications subsystem **44** may include an infrared device and associated circuits and components for short-range communication. Examples of short-range communication standards include standards developed by the Infrared Data Association (IrDA), Bluetooth, and the 802.11 family of standards developed by IEEE.

[0035] A received signal such as a text message, an e-mail message, or web page download is processed by the communication subsystem **24** and input to the processor **22**. The processor **22** processes the received signal for output to the display **32** or alternatively to the auxiliary I/O subsystem **36**. A subscriber may compose data items, such as e-mail messages, utilizing the touch-sensitive display **33**, and possibly the auxiliary I/O subsystem **36**. The auxiliary subsystem **36** may include devices such as: a mouse, track ball, infrared fingerprint detector, or a roller wheel with dynamic button pressing capability. A composed item may be transmitted over the wireless network **100** through the communication subsystem **24**.

[0036] For voice communications, the overall operation of the portable electronic device **20** is substantially similar, except that the received signals are output to the speaker **40**, and signals for transmission are generated by the microphone **42**. Alternative voice or audio I/O subsystems, such as a voice message recording subsystem, may also be implemented on the portable electronic device **20**. Although voice or audio signal output is accomplished primarily through the speaker **40**, the display **32** may also be utilized to provide additional information such as the identity of a calling party, duration of a voice call, or other voice call related information.

[0037] The portable electronic device **20** comprises a housing **70** that includes a bottom **72**, a frame **74**, and sidewalls **76** is shown in FIG. **2** and FIG. **3**. The housing **70** may include one or more pieces, for example, formed by injection molding or other processes. The touch-sensitive display **33** is shown disposed within the housing **70** near the frame **74**. The touch-sensitive display **33** may be movable with respect to the housing **70**. The frame **74** is sized and shaped to provide an